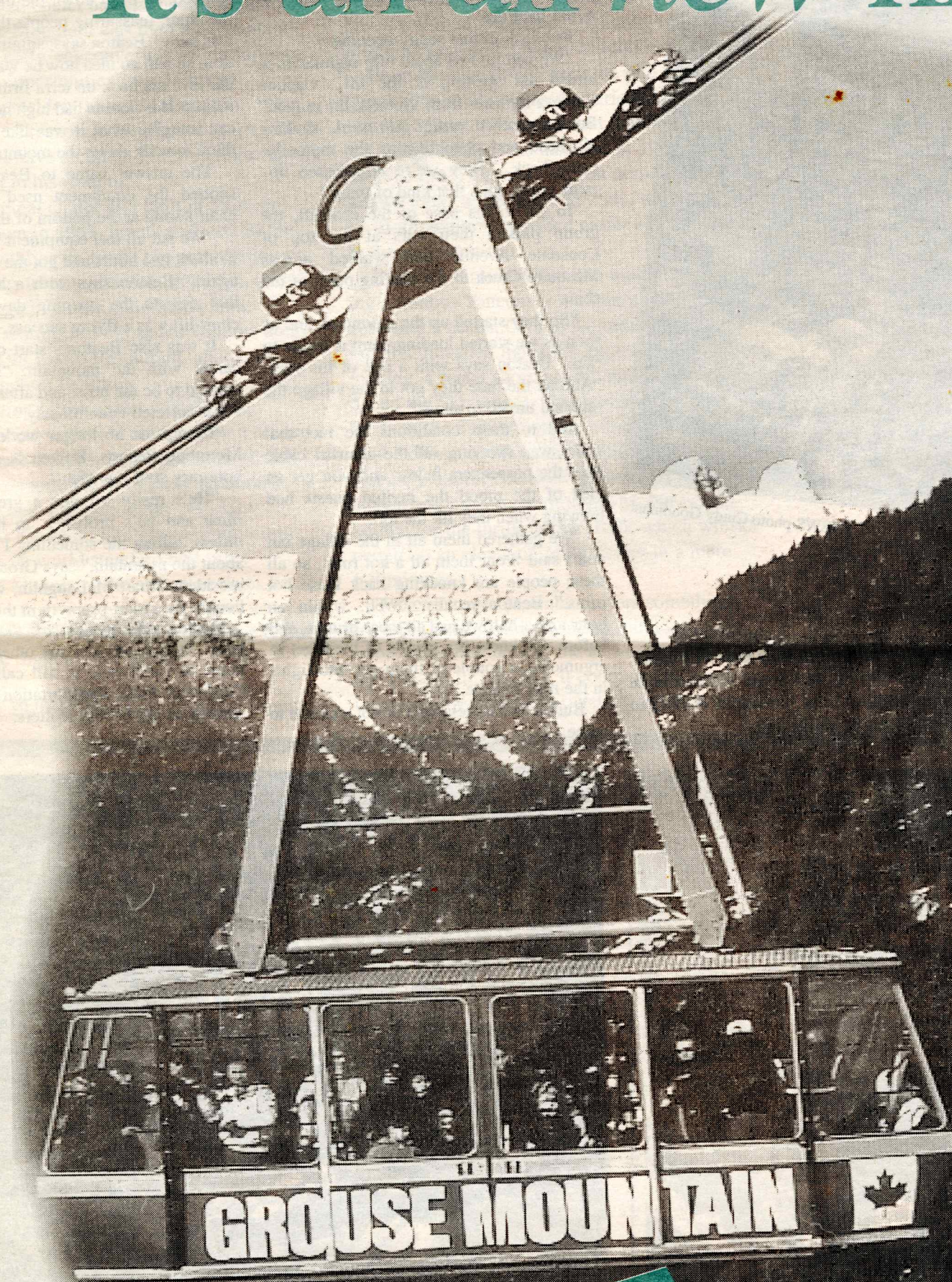
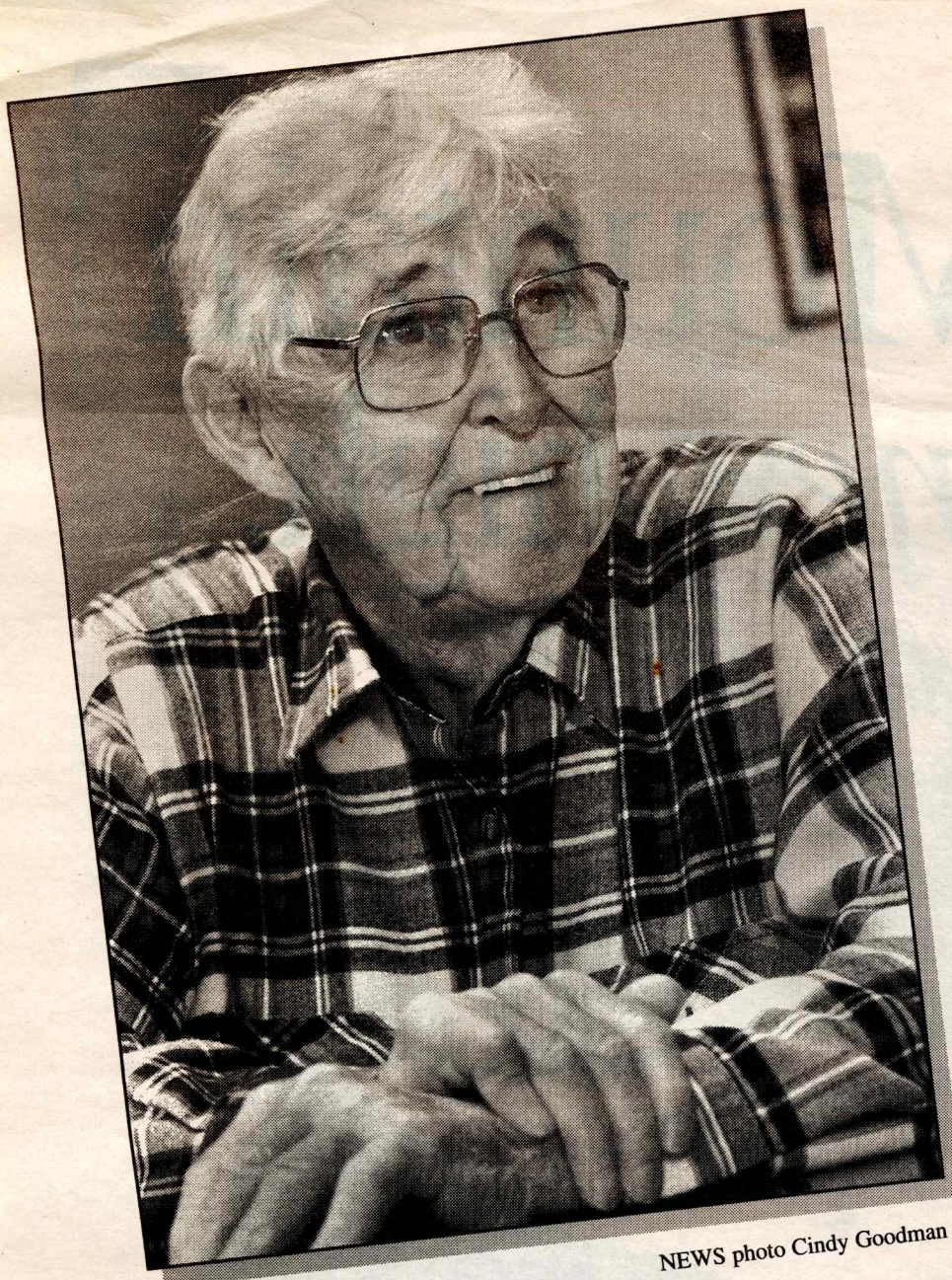


Grouse Mountain

It's an all *new* high.



Grouse Mountain
The Peak of Vancouver



NEWS photo Cindy Goodman

THESE HANDS WERE MADE FOR BUILDING — And build they did. Al Beaton, 82, spent many years of his life running the lifts and services at Grouse Mountain. In fact, it was Beaton and 15 others who pooled their money from serving in WW II to build the first-ever chair lift at the North Vancouver tourist attraction.

SUFFICE to say Grouse Mountain staff are hoping for a less eventful Grand Opening of their new Chalet than the day the first-ever chair lift opened on the North Vancouver mountain.

Not many people remember that rainy and fogging day back in the winter of '48, but Al Beaton sure does. He should. He was the man who helped design, finance and build the inaugural double chair-lift up the mountain.

At 82, Beaton is perhaps the preeminent authority on Grouse Mountain. In addition to helping to finance and run the aforementioned chair-lift, Beaton put in over 20 years of service with Grouse Mountain. He left in 1968 to become California's chief inspector of ski facilities.

But back to that soggy opening.

"We had invited about 100 dignitaries to attend the opening of the lift... Captain Cates, a minister from Victoria, the mayor," Beaton recalled earlier this week, shaking his head and chuckling as the memories came back. "They we're all dressed up.. mink coats, suits that kind of thing."

To get to the base of the chairlift, the group parked their cars at the top of Lonsdale Avenue and walked across Mosquito Creek to the loading point of the chair.

"So they started up the mountain, and as soon as we started loading them it began to rain," Beaton says with a roll of his eyes. "And by the time they got to the village the rain had turned to snow."

Add to these conditions the fact that water was spraying off the chairlift cable onto the passengers below and you get an idea of the mood the invited guests had brewing when they hit the top.

"We gathered them all in the village inn and I said 'Pour them all a hot rum', so all these people are knocking back these hot rums," Beaton recalls. "Well, within an hour-and-a-half we had all these drunks, and before you know it a couple of them get in arguments, a couple of them get into fights in the mud outside."

But the worst, believe it or not was still to come.

"Round about 5 p.m. everyone decides its time to head down the mountain, so I started loading them on the chair going down," Beaton says. "And two guys from Standard Oil — I'll never forget 'em — decided they would try and see if they could stop the chair when they unloaded."

They did. By planting their feet as they unloaded from the chair, the oilmen stripped the cable right off the flywheel.

Beaton figures there were about 80 people still on the chair when it came to a grinding halt. Luckily no one fell off, but the problem of trying to get these rum-toting dignitaries off the chairs still remained.

"I was at the top of the lift when it stopped, so I ran down the mountain under the chair, reassuring people that everything was okay," Beaton says, admitting that at the time he had no idea how he was going to get the revelers back on terra firma. "Of course most of the women had high heels on so you can imagine what it was like trying to get them to walk down the mountain."

The answer came to Beaton when he spotted the equipment used to build the chair sitting at the bottom of the mountain.

"We put all that equipment back together in about two hours and got the chair running again," Beaton says with a laugh, adding that despite the opening day mishap the chair-lift was a flying success.

It was also Beaton's start of a longtime career with the mountain: "Nobody else wanted to be the boss, and after opening day I was selected unanimously."

Though he no longer works for Grouse Mountain Resorts, Beaton is considered a honorary staff member.

"He's really become a great friend of mine and he's probably up here twice a month, telling me something I didn't know about the mountain," says Grouse Mountain president Stuart McLaughlin, who's family bought the resort property in the 1970s.

Beaton who spends half the year at his home in Norgate and the other half at his home in California, is still called upon by California State transportation officials to consult on ski facility matters.

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Grouse Mountain Renovation Highlights Heritage

VANCOUVER — \$1.5 million renovation at Grouse Mountain focused on restoring the heritage and ambience of the original 1926 chalet has just been completed.

"Grouse Mountain was the first mountain chosen by early Vancouverites for its superior recreation opportunities", said Grouse Mountain president Stuart McLaughlin. "Our intent was to recapture the pioneer spirit of yesteryear and have architect Herb Challier capture that charm in his designs".

The original chalet was built in 1926 and burned down in 1963. It was replaced by the existing building in 1966. The new design incorporates a stone exterior, skylights, a fireplace lounge in a new main lobby area, increased seating and expanded window areas in the Bar 98 Bistro Restaurant, and new private function facilities.

In addition to the chalet renovations, improvements to the ski area include a 50 percent increase in snow making output, terrain improvements on the back runs, additional grooming and upgrades to the popular Enchanted Kingdom Snowboard Park, complete with its world standard half pipe.

Grouse Mountain, the attraction dates back to 1894. In that year, a party of hikers ventured up the slopes and upon shooting a Blue Grouse, named the rugged local summit "Grouse Mountain".

By the 1920's, when motor touring became a

favourite pastime, W.C. Shelley foresaw the attraction of the mountain's wilderness setting and panoramic view and set the wheels in motion for a mountain roadway. By 1924, a paved toll road, Mountain Highway, was completed to the top of Grouse Mountain.

From the late 1940's until the mid 1960's Grouse Mountain enjoyed a series of major changes. North America's first double chairlift, the Village Chair, was installed in 1949 and then, in 1965, Canada's largest aerial tramway, known today as the Blue Skyride, was completed. Both addition provided easier public access to the mountain-top.

By 1975, Grouse Mountain was fast becoming a famous Vancouver landmark. To handle customer's needs, Grouse Mountain developed ski lifts, installed lights for night skiing, snow-making, a rental shop, a new chalet and introduced the Ski School. Construction began in 1976 on the Super Skyride, which more than doubled Grouse Mountain's up-hill capacity. Not only did the Skyride become Canada's largest and most modern tramway, but is also known for the thrilling ride itself, which whisks people to an elevation of 3700 feet in a mere 6-8 minutes.

Today, Grouse Mountain offers something for everyone... scenic wonders, outdoor recreation, mountain dining, the aerial tramway, and the Theatre In The Sky. It continues to develop into one of Vancouver's outstanding attractions.



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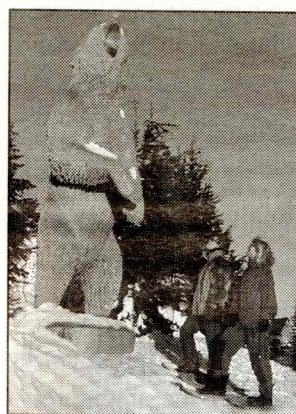
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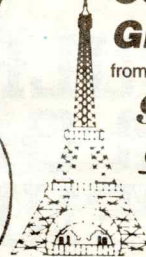
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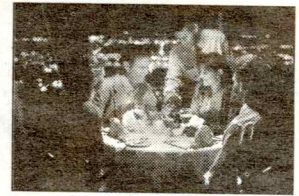


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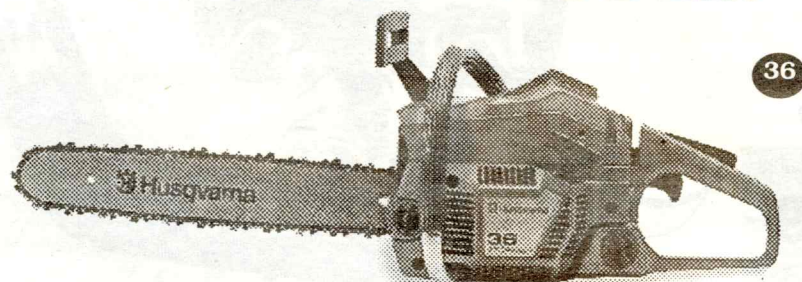


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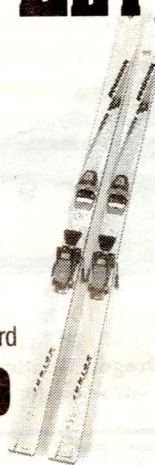
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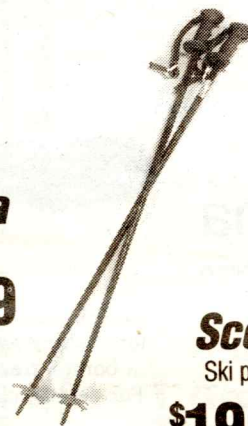
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Recommended For Family Viewing, The Theatre In The Sky

The Theatre

The original Theatre In The Sky opened atop Grouse Mountain in 1990. It featured a multi-image slide production with supporting video and special effects and was enjoyed by nearly two million visitors. Over the past year the theatre has undergone renovations to accept a wide-screen, full-motion format for a new generation of theatre.

The new Theatre In The Sky is Canada's first "High Definition Electronic Cinema". High definition video cameras record pictures in a wide screen format much like film cameras, but with over four times the resolution of conventional broadcast television. The results are amazingly clear, lifelike images without the visible scan lines found in regular video. High Definition video images look almost 3-D and seem to be sharper than life itself.

The new High Definition projection system in the Theatre In The Sky is a quad configuration of Sony's latest High Definition projector - model VPH-1292. It is the only theatre of its kind to combine four Sony HD projectors aligned to one large seamless screen. The images are digitally recorded on Sony's proprietary High Definition laser disc system. Audio playback is via a digital tapeless hard disc recorder. The control system is custom designed by Chris Sia of CPS Electronics, Vancouver. In fact, all the Theatre functions - from video imagery to special effects, lighting and automatic door operation to the four channel digital surround sound are controlled by Chris' system. Chris has designed control systems all over the world during the last 20 years and the technical design and installation for this Electronic Cinema is representative of the very latest technology in multimedia attraction control system.

The Production

"Born to Fly" was eighteen months in production and

draws aerial HD images from almost seventy hours of footage shot over the province of British Columbia during an entire year - a total of 200 hours of flying time in Long Ranger and Twin-Star helicopters.

"Born to Fly" is a production of *Beautiful British Columbia Magazine*. President John Thomson expects to create a series of different shows, utilizing this extensive library of aerial footage and new custom HD footage, for showings at the Theatre In The Sky and in other new High Definition Electronic Cinemas being developed for additional British Columbia locations.

The Grouse Mountain Theatre experience features original aerial and ground images that have never been seen before. Shooting ranged from the west coast of Vancouver Island to the Inside Passage and the Chilcotin to Whistler/Garibaldi, Vancouver and the Lower Mainland to the Fraser Valley and beyond.

Shooting for the Grouse Mountain production was completed in late spring and final video and audio assembly was done at Sony Pictures High Definition Centre in Hollywood, Rainmaker Digital Imagery/Gastown Post and Transfer, Vancouver and Post Modern Sound, Vancouver.

The concept and production design was the brainchild of Gary McCartie, who lives and works on Salt Spring Island. McCartie directed the production and was assisted by his son Colin, who also was co-producer. Together they have created more than 1,000 multimedia productions for presentation and installation around the world over the past 28 years including four pavilion projects for Vancouver's EXPO 86. They work out of Seacoast Multimedia, Victoria and CGM Multimedia, Vancouver. Both were born and raised and reside in British Columbia and they revel in the opportunity to create theatre experiences that feature the spectacular natural beauty of their home province.

The sound design for the entire pre-show and main theatre production, including the script and the music and lyrics for the original song "Born to Fly" were created by David Hoole.

His audio production facility Post Modern Sound is Vancouver's largest audio post production facility and one of the best digital facilities in North America. David is a writer, musician, actor/narrator and audio specialist who brings new dimension to productions like this one for the Theatre In The Sky.

All lighting effects in the pre-show and main theatre, including all screen effects, are designed and installed by Douglas Welch Lighting Design, Vancouver.

The High Definition video crew was from KCTS/9 in Seattle. Marc Pingry (Director of Photography), Jeff Gentes (Producer), and Cliff Hillhouse (Chief Engineer) are world leaders in high definition aerial photography, having pioneered the technique for the vastly popular PBS series "Wings Over America".

A co-production with the same Canadian team is currently being completed for a sixty minute aerial adventure entitled "Over Beautiful British Columbia", to air October 20 at 8:00 p.m. on KCTS/9 Television. This one-hour show is being co-produced by Beautiful British Columbia Magazine and KCTS to mark this year's 125th anniversary of BC becoming a province of Canada. This show will also be available on home video. As well, the Magazine is publishing an all-new, large-format coffee-table book with the same title. The TV show, video and book are being underwritten by Overwaitea/Save-On-Foods as their 125th birthday present to the Province.



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